



## The Point Loma Reserve

An ecological reserve area for a fragile community of native wildlife and botanical treasures rapidly diminishing in southern California.



*Great Blue Heron*

### Stewards of the Point Loma Reserve

Concerned citizens and government entities accepting wardship of a sensitive ecosystem of native plants, animals, and bird life on the Point Loma peninsula to protect and preserve for future generations.

- Department of Defense
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- The California Department of Fish and Game
- City of San Diego

# Point Loma Ecological Reserve

By Donald Lydy, A.I.A.

The diminishing amount of native coastal habitat in southern California, along with the sensitivity toward natural wildlife habitats, has made Point Loma an ecologically significant area.

Concern for the area led the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Audubon Society, and the Department of Defense to join together and form an Ecological Reserve Area (ERA) in the Point Loma peninsula.

Five Navy Commanding Officers on Point Loma gave added strength to the ERA effort. When a significant Military Construction project threatened to disturb even more natural habitats, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service called for a work stoppage. In April 1993, the Navy Officers signed a letter of agreement guaranteeing effective conservation of the wildlife and habitats of the Point Loma peninsula. The agreement would develop a Management Plan of Natural Resources to identify and conserve the areas necessary to maintain the biological diversity of the natural communities, an increasing problem as development and other land uses encroach upon and fragment native habitats.

The Management Plan, which will be completed in 1994, includes a designated reserve sanctuary that will remain undisturbed in perpetuity. Of the 1500 acres on the Point Loma peninsula that are under various governmental jurisdictions, approximately 640 acres are included in the reserve.



Point Loma Peninsula

## Vulnerable biological communities will be protected and their long-term existence and perpetuation ensured.



San Diego Sand Aster



Rufous-Crowned Sparrow

Species sensitive to extermination by non-native competitors and predators will no longer face local eradication or extinction. More focus will be placed on the management of ecosystems and a variety of native habitats and species, rather than on single species or populations. The Plan includes long-term, in-place mitigation that allows the Navy to proceed with planned stewardship of the unique natural resources under its jurisdiction. Each activity on Point Loma has agreed to the Plan and will develop land management practices, request resources, and implement appropriate protection for the conserved areas.

The major biological objectives for identifying the areas that will form the basis of a natural resource reserve system include maintaining the following:

- Functional ecosystems within the Natural Resource Management Plan study area.
- Viable populations of target plant and animal species.
- Functional wildlife corridors and habitat linkages between critical biological resource areas within the natural resources reserve system.
- The full range of native vegetation communities and successional phases in ecologically significant areas with a focus on habitats that are viable and of limited distribution in a regional context.

Current access within selected areas of the reserve, which include security, circulation and parking, utility systems, fire services, and siting of some structures, will continue.

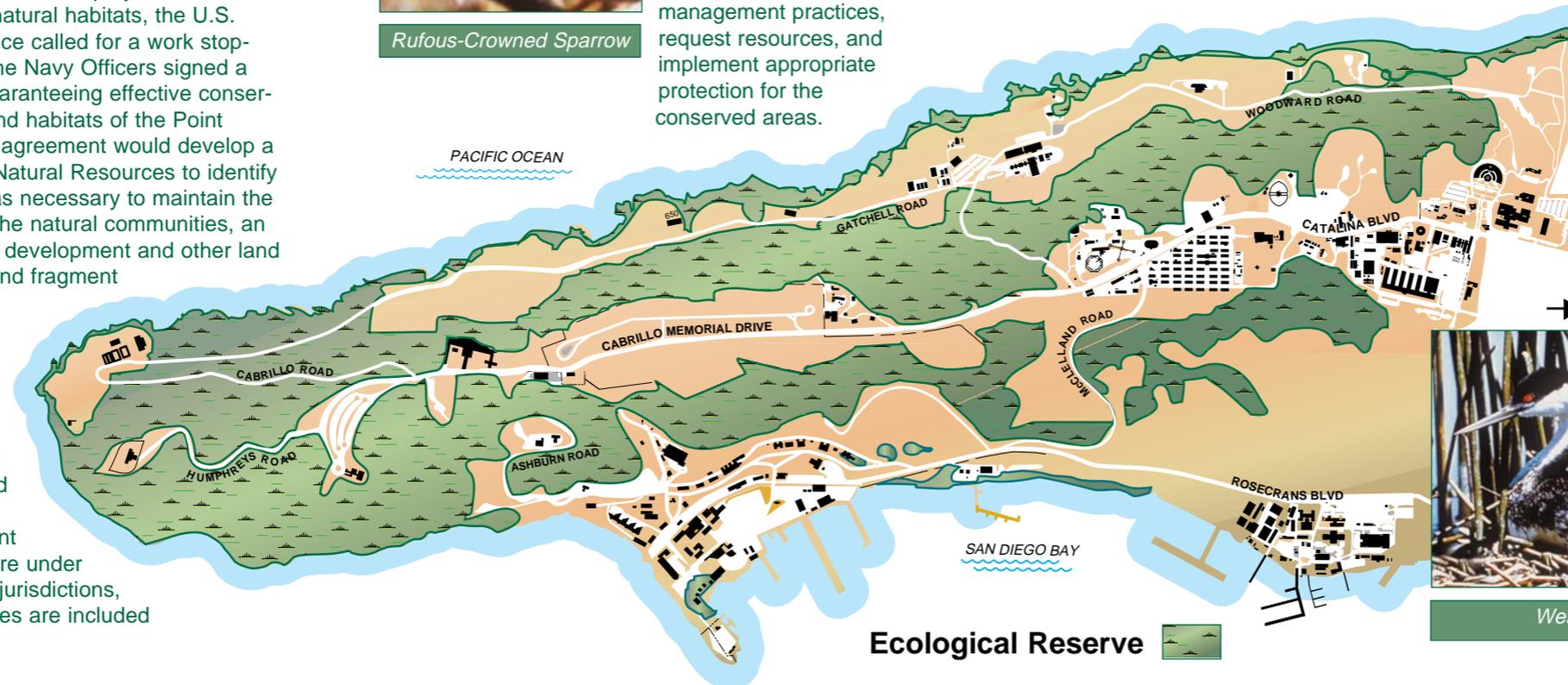
Proposed operational access will be evaluated against reserve goals and objectives, and alternative access will be explored. New road construction through the reserve will be discouraged to minimize fragmentation of ecologically sensitive areas of the reserve.



Velvet Cactus

The breakdown of reserve acreage by jurisdiction is

Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center, RDT&E Division (NRaD)	292.1
Naval Submarine Base San Diego	140.8
U.S. National Park Service (Cabrillo Monument)	127.3
Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Point Loma Annex	40.0
Fleet Combat Training Center Pacific	22.7
City of San Diego	8.9
Naval Station	4.2
Coast Guard	1.5
Department of Veterans Affairs (Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery Point Loma)	1.1
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>638.6</b>



Ecological Reserve

California Brown Pelican



Western Grebe

# Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Species on Point Loma Reserve

## Amphibians and Reptiles

Coronado skink  
Orange-throated whiptail  
Coastal western whiptail  
San Diego horned lizard  
Northern red diamond  
rattlesnake  
San Diego ring-neck snake  
Coastal rosy boa  
Coast patch-nosed snake

Southwestern willow  
flycatcher\*  
California horned lark  
Bank swallow\*  
Purple martin  
San Diego cactus wren  
Bendire's thrasher  
Loggerhead shrike  
Least Bell's vireo\*\*  
Virginia's warbler  
Yellow-breasted chat  
Summer tanager  
Sage sparrow  
Southern California  
rufous-crowned  
sparrow  
Tricolored blackbird

## Birds

Common loon  
Western grebe  
Black storm-petrel  
Ashy storm-petrel  
California brown pelican\*\*  
Double-crested cormorant  
Great blue heron  
Black-crowned night heron  
Great egret  
Snowy egret  
Bufflehead  
California black rail\*  
Western snowy plover\*  
Long-billed curlew  
Laughing gull  
Black skimmer  
Caspian tern  
Elegant tern  
Forster's tern  
California least tern\*\*  
Xantus' murrelet  
Rhinoceros auklet  
Osprey  
Black-shouldered kite  
Bald eagle\*  
Northern harrier  
Sharp-shinned hawk  
Cooper's hawk  
Swainson's hawk\*  
Ferruginous hawk  
Golden eagle  
Prairie falcon  
American peregrine falcon\*  
Merlin  
Burrowing owl  
Long-eared owl  
Short-eared owl  
Black swift

## Mammals

San Diego desert  
woodrat  
Northwestern San Diego  
pocket mouse  
Pacific little pocket  
mouse  
Greater western mastiff  
bat  
California leaf-nosed bat

## Plants

Shaw's agave  
Golden-spined cereus  
Sea kisses  
Wart-stemmed ceoanthus  
Orcutt's spineflower\*  
San Diego sand aster  
Sea dahlia  
Western ponyfoot  
Coast wallflower  
Cliff spurge  
San Diego barrel cactus  
Chocolate lilly  
Snake cholla  
Short-lobed broomrape  
Ashy spike-moss  
San Diego sunflower

\* Threatened

\*\* Endangered



*Point Loma - West Slope*

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Reviewed and approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. ...". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Executive Officer/Base  
Operations Manager

July 1994  
TD 2646

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